

# UTAH BICYCLE FACT SHEET

10-Year Summary (1993-2002)

## Bicycle/Automobile Deaths

- ♦ 66 bicyclists were killed in crashes with automobiles in Utah.<sup>1</sup>
- ♦ Utah's bicycle fatality rate was 10th highest in the nation.<sup>2</sup>

## Bicycle Helmets

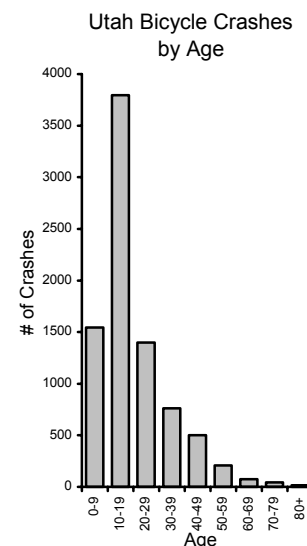
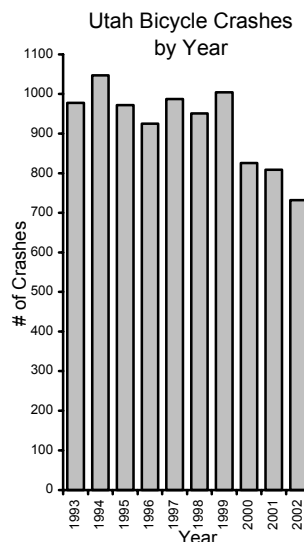


*Head injury is the leading cause of death in bicycle crashes. Helmets are the single most effective safety device to reduce head injury and death from bicycle crashes.*<sup>3</sup>

- ♦ Bicycle helmets can reduce the risk of head injury and brain injury by 85%.<sup>4</sup>
- ♦ If every Utah bicyclist used a helmet, health care cost savings would total \$19 million a year.<sup>5</sup>
- ♦ Only 20% of Utah elementary school-age bicyclists and fewer than 8% of Utah teens wear bicycle helmets.<sup>1</sup>

## Bicycle/Automobile Crashes

- ♦ 9,230 bicyclists were hit by automobiles in Utah.
- ➔ 27% of drivers were cited for a traffic violation.
- ➔ 58% of crashes occurred between 2 and 7 p.m.
- ➔ 79% of bicyclists were male.<sup>1</sup>



## Money

- ♦ In the U.S., less than \$1 is spent per person in their lifetime on bicycle and pedestrian education.<sup>6</sup>
- ♦ On average, 452 bicyclists are seen in emergency departments in Utah per year, with annual charges averaging \$1.2 MILLION.<sup>7</sup>

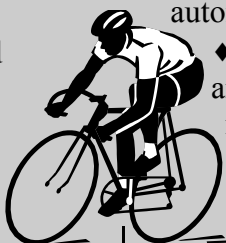


10 Utah Counties with Highest Bicycle/Automobile Crash Rates	Rank	County	Rate/Year per 100,000 people
	1	Grand	61.37
	2	Utah	54.88
	3	Salt Lake	52.24
	4	Cache	47.60
	State Average		43.59
	5	Weber	35.10
	6	Iron	32.56
	7	Davis	28.54
	8	Washington	24.99
	9	Wasatch	23.76
	10	Uintah	23.59

### Drivers

- ♦ Bicycles should be treated the same as other vehicles.
- ♦ SLOW DOWN.
- ♦ Be especially careful around child bicyclists.
- ♦ Pass a bicycle in the same manner you would a car. You must allow at least three feet clearance when passing a bicycle.
- ♦ Do not drive or park in a bike lane.

### Safety Tips



- ♦ Bicycle riders on public streets have the same rights and responsibilities as automobile drivers.
- ♦ Ride with the flow of traffic and as near to right side of the road as is safe and practical.
- ♦ Obey traffic signs and signals.
- ♦ Ride in a straight line.
- ♦ Use hand signals.
- ♦ WEAR A HELMET.

### Bicyclists



For more information:  
Phone: (801) 538-6864  
Fax: (801) 538-9134  
Email: vippp@utah.gov

<sup>1</sup>Utah Department of Health, Violence & Injury Prevention Program, <sup>2</sup>National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, <sup>3</sup>National Safe Kids Campaign, <sup>4</sup>New England Journal of Medicine 1989;320:1361-1367, <sup>5</sup>Journal of Injury Prevention 2002;8:47-52, <sup>6</sup>National Highway Safety Institute, <sup>7</sup>UDOH, Office of Health Care Statistics